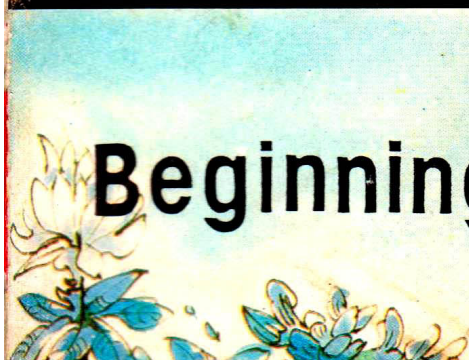


The Bird Doctors



Beginning Science



CHINESE FAIRY TALE

The Bird Doctors

Written By Lin Songying
Illustrated by Li Rongshan



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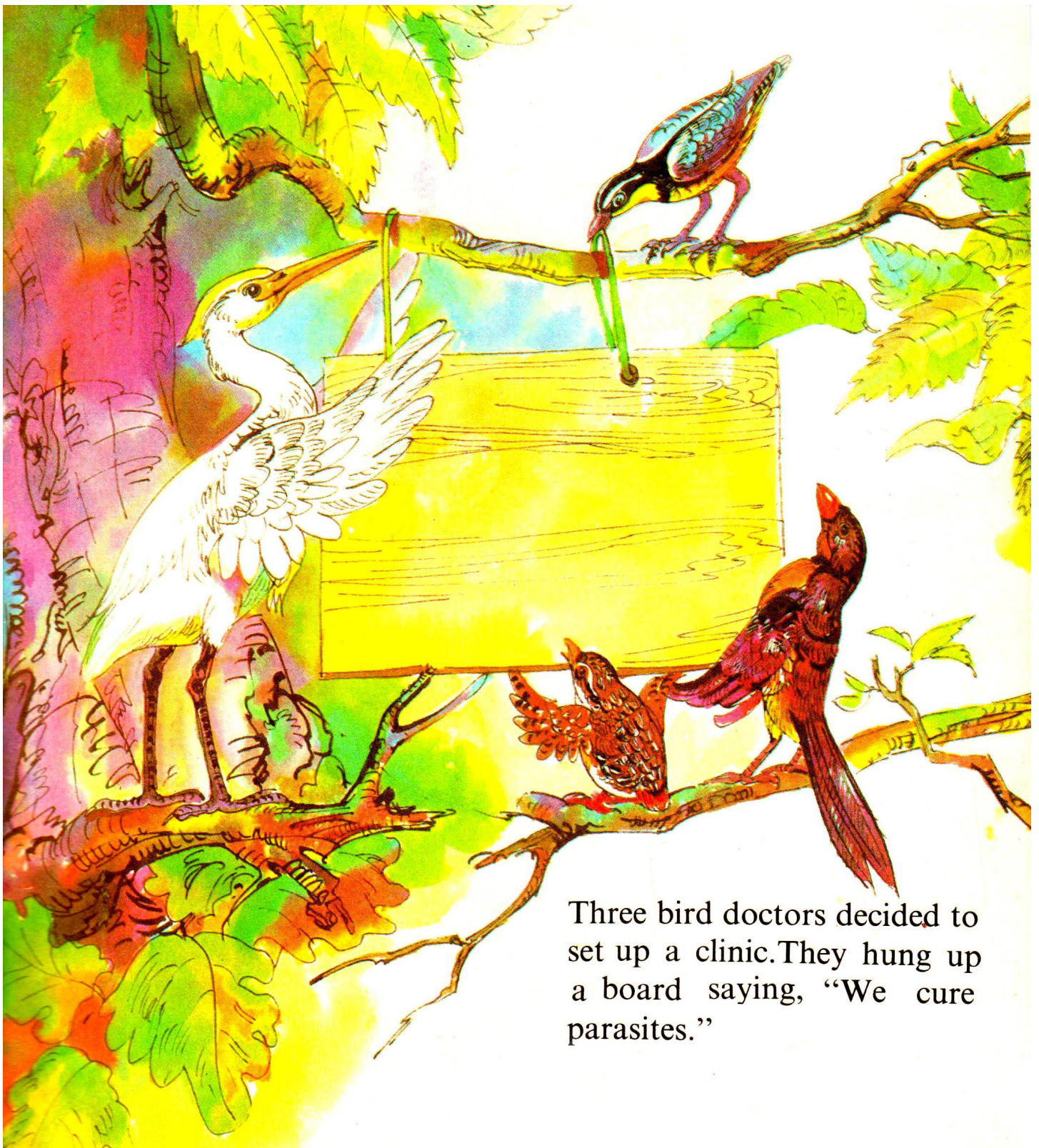
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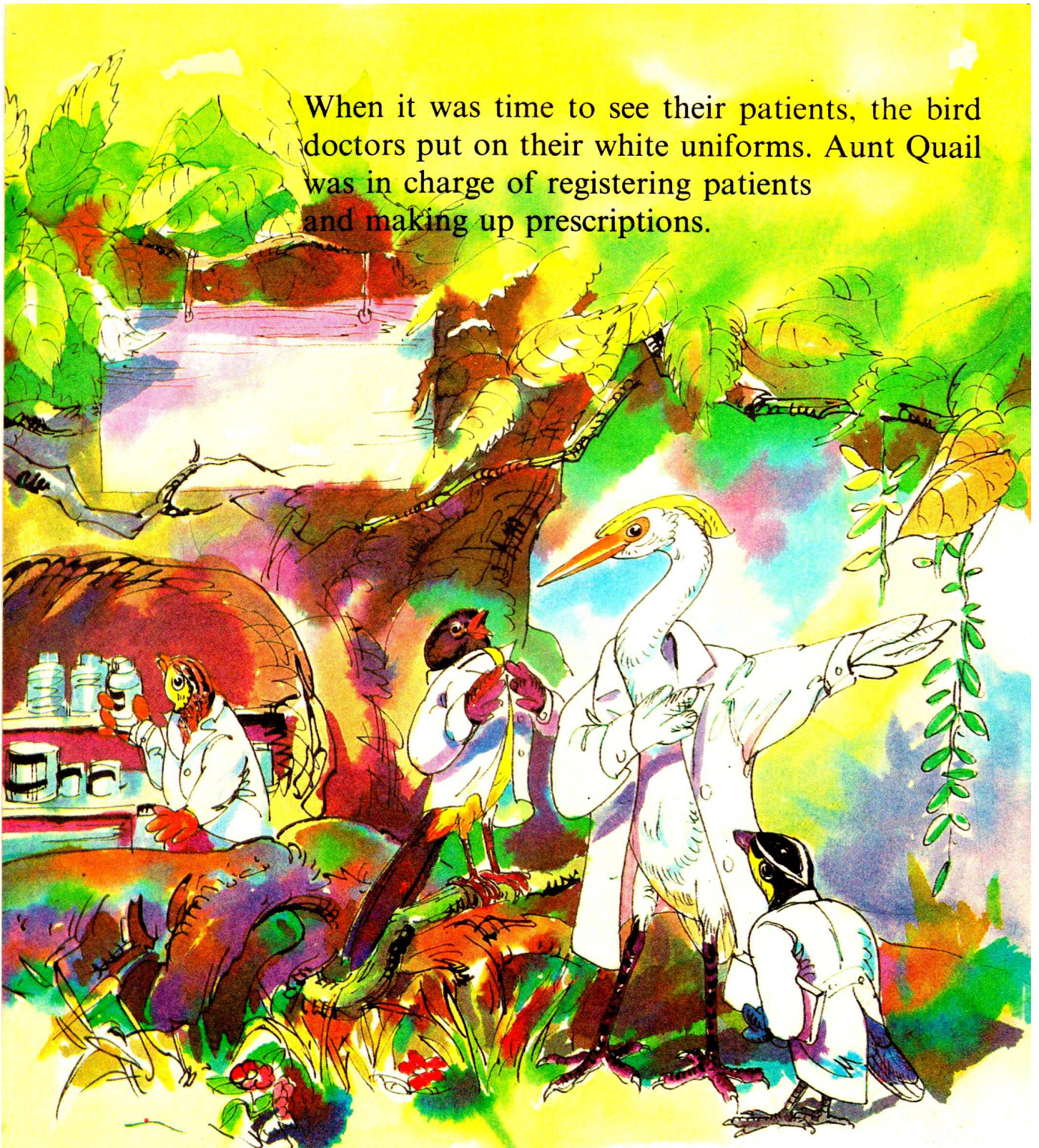
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Three bird doctors decided to set up a clinic. They hung up a board saying, "We cure parasites."

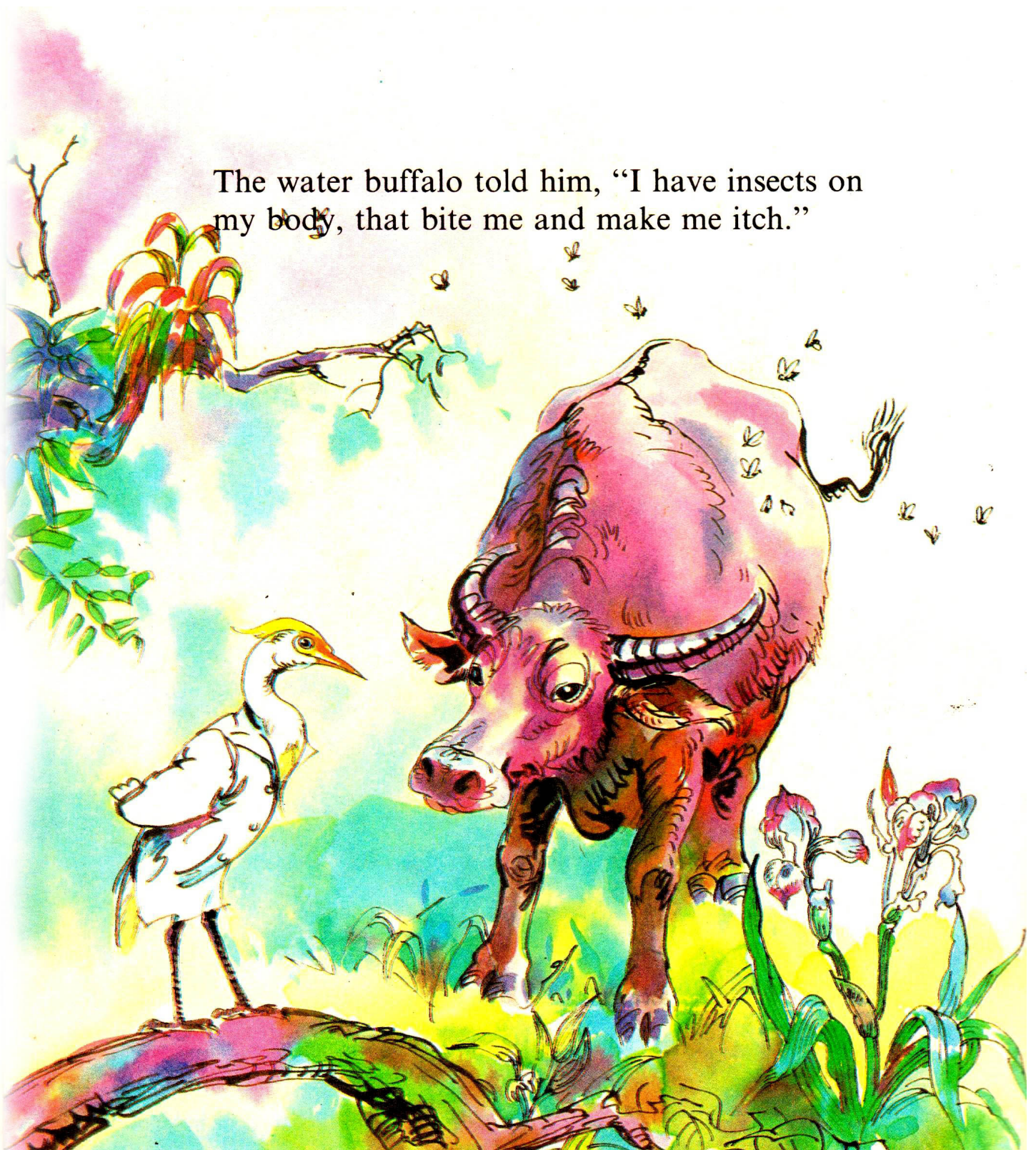
When it was time to see their patients, the bird doctors put on their white uniforms. Aunt Quail was in charge of registering patients and making up prescriptions.

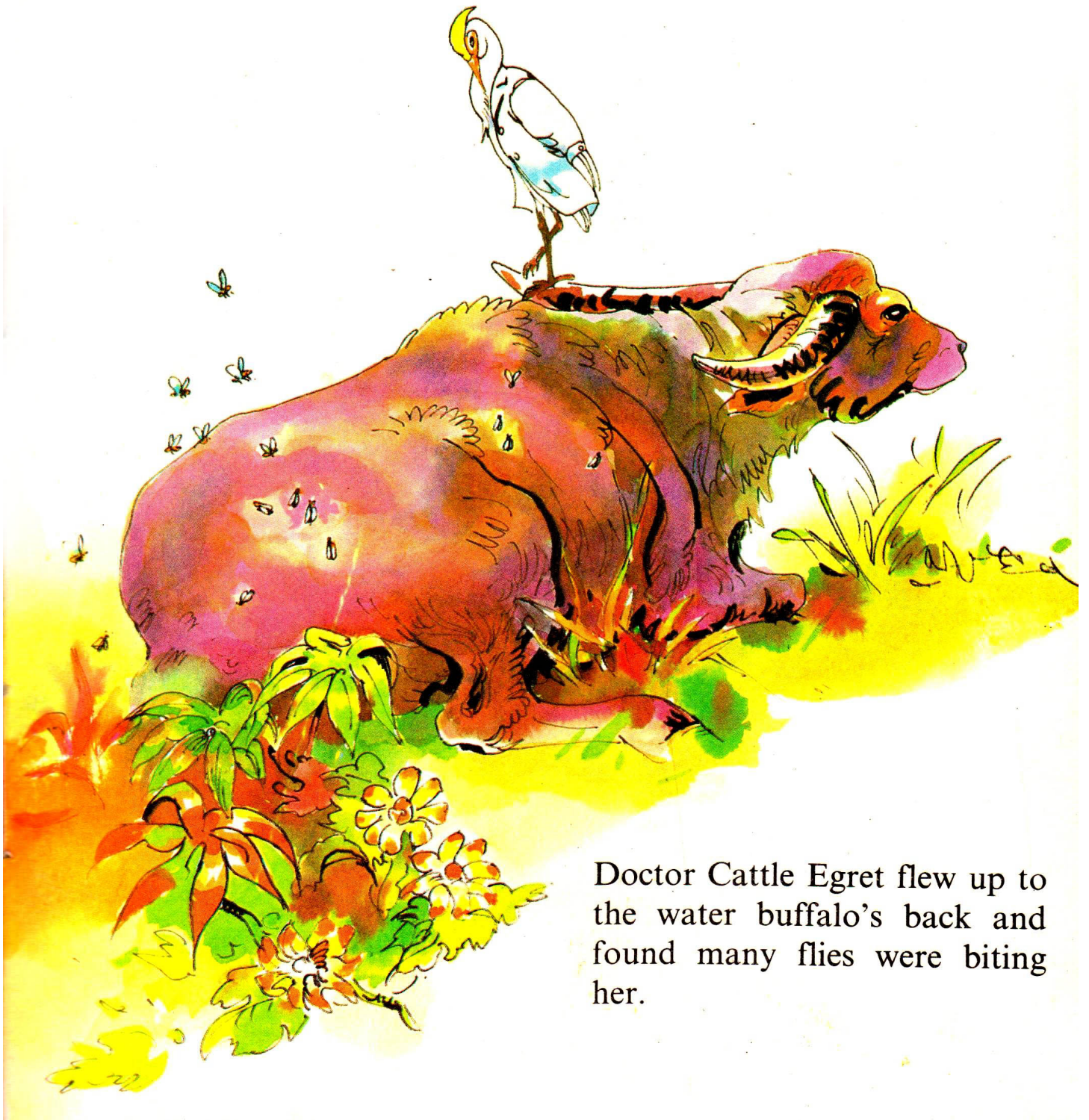




The water buffalo complained that her skin itched terribly and asked if it could be cured. Aunt Quail sent her to the skin care department to see Doctor Cattle Egret.

The water buffalo told him, "I have insects on my body, that bite me and make me itch."



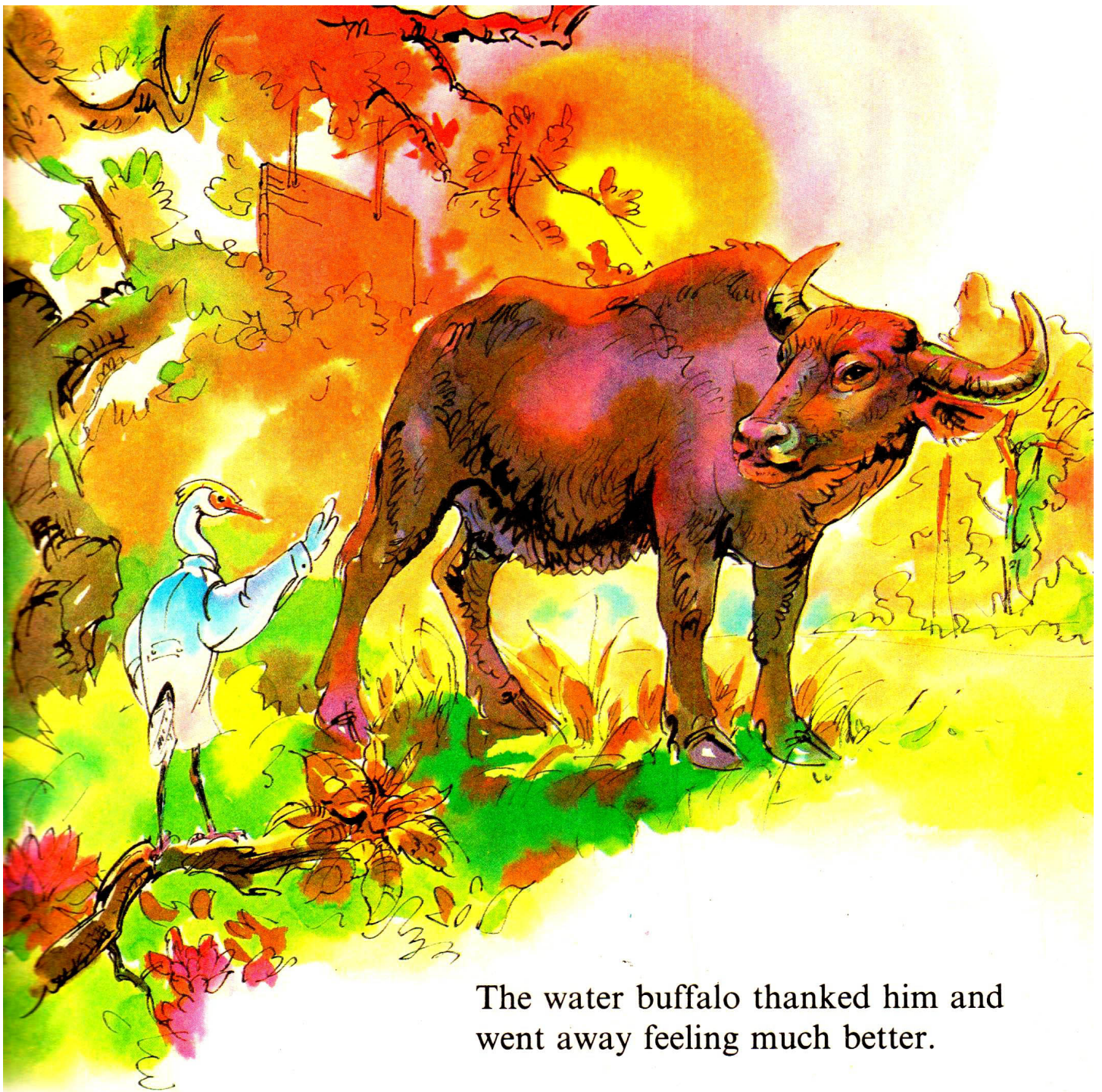


Doctor Cattle Egret flew up to the water buffalo's back and found many flies were biting her.



Doctor Cattle Egret began pecking at the flies. He told the water buffalo, "You should often take baths in the river, roll in the mud, and splash sand on your body. In this way you may keep the flies away."



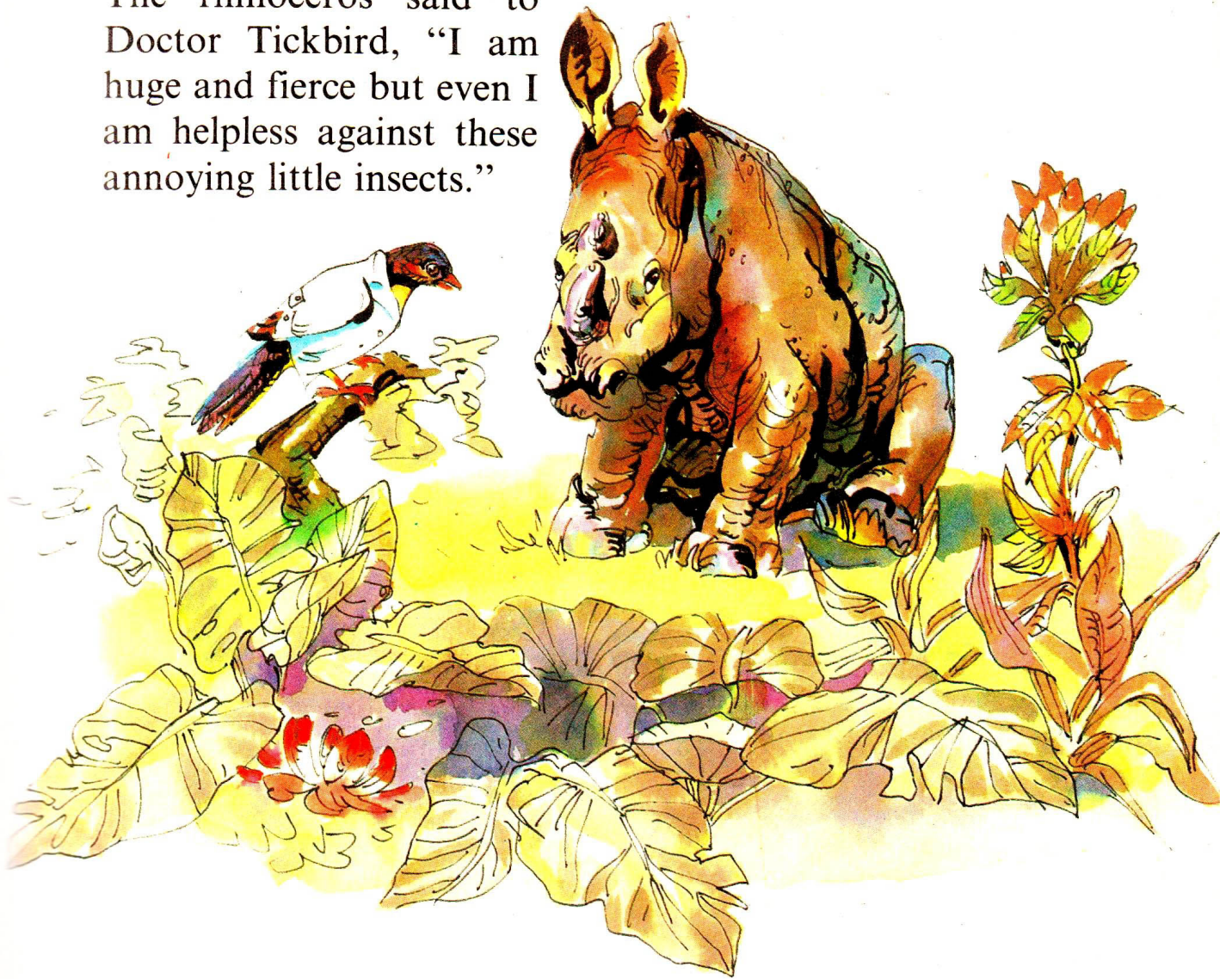


The water buffalo thanked him and
went away feeling much better.

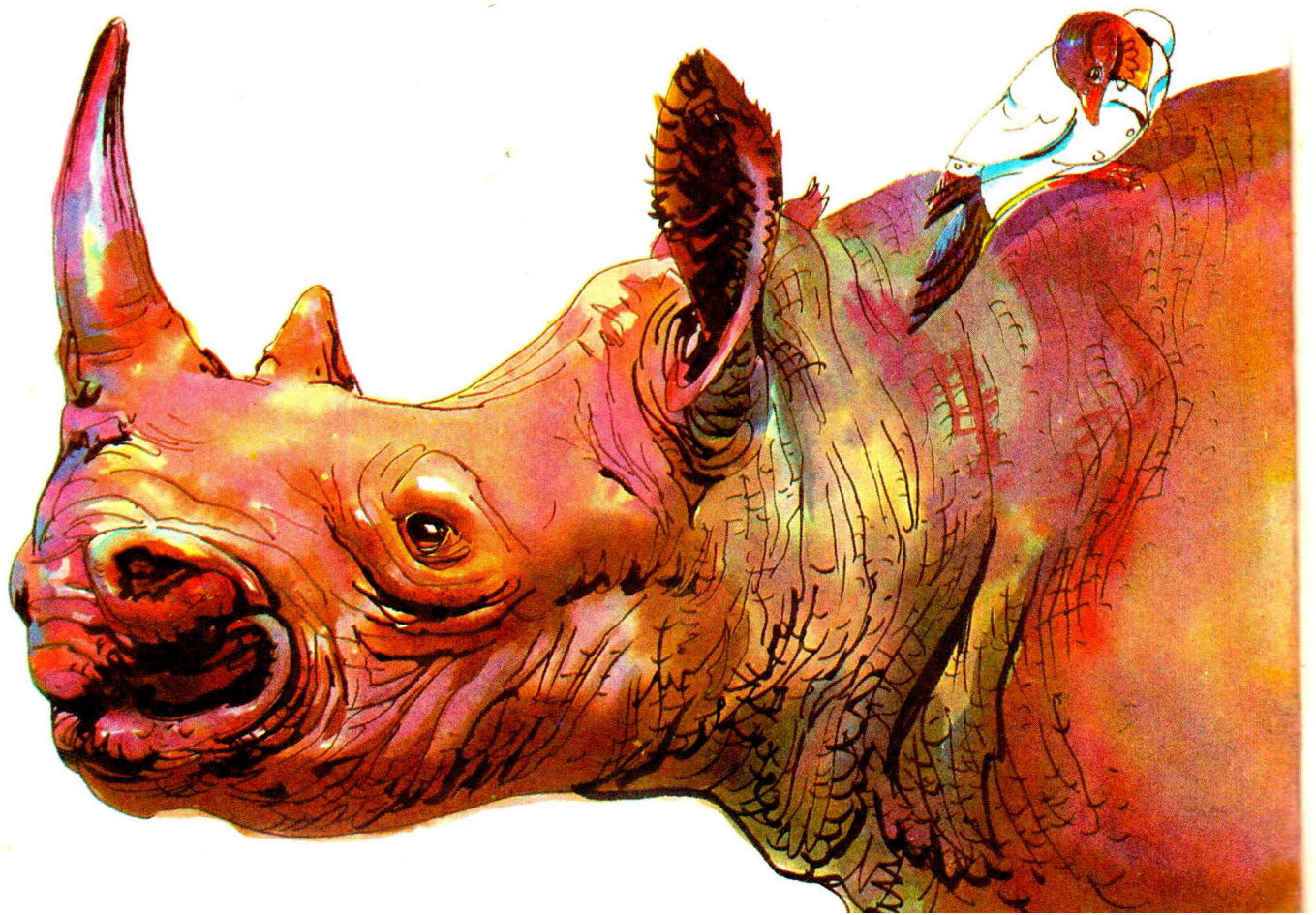


The next patient at the clinic was a rhinoceros.
Aunt Quail sent him to see Doctor Tickbird.

The rhinoceros said to
Doctor Tickbird, "I am
huge and fierce but even I
am helpless against these
annoying little insects."



Doctor Tickbird examined him and found that there were many folds in the rhinoceros' hide where the skin is extremely delicate and filled with blood vessels and nerves. Parasites had climbed deep into these folds to bite. The pain and itching were unbearable.



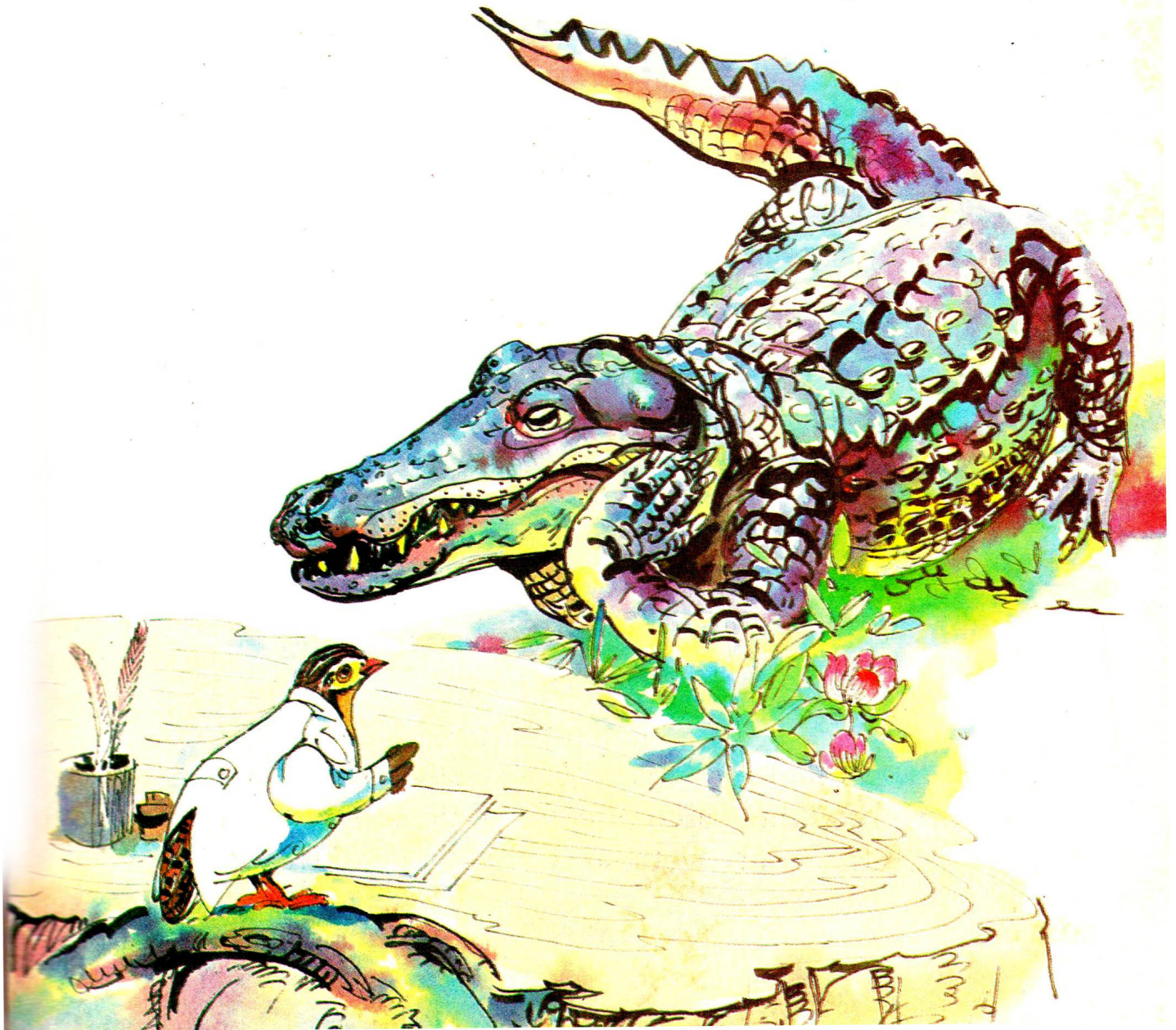
Doctor Tickbird stood on the rhinoceros' back and ate all the parasites. The pain and itching disappeared. Doctor Tickbird told the rhinoceros, "Whenever they start bothering you again, please come back."

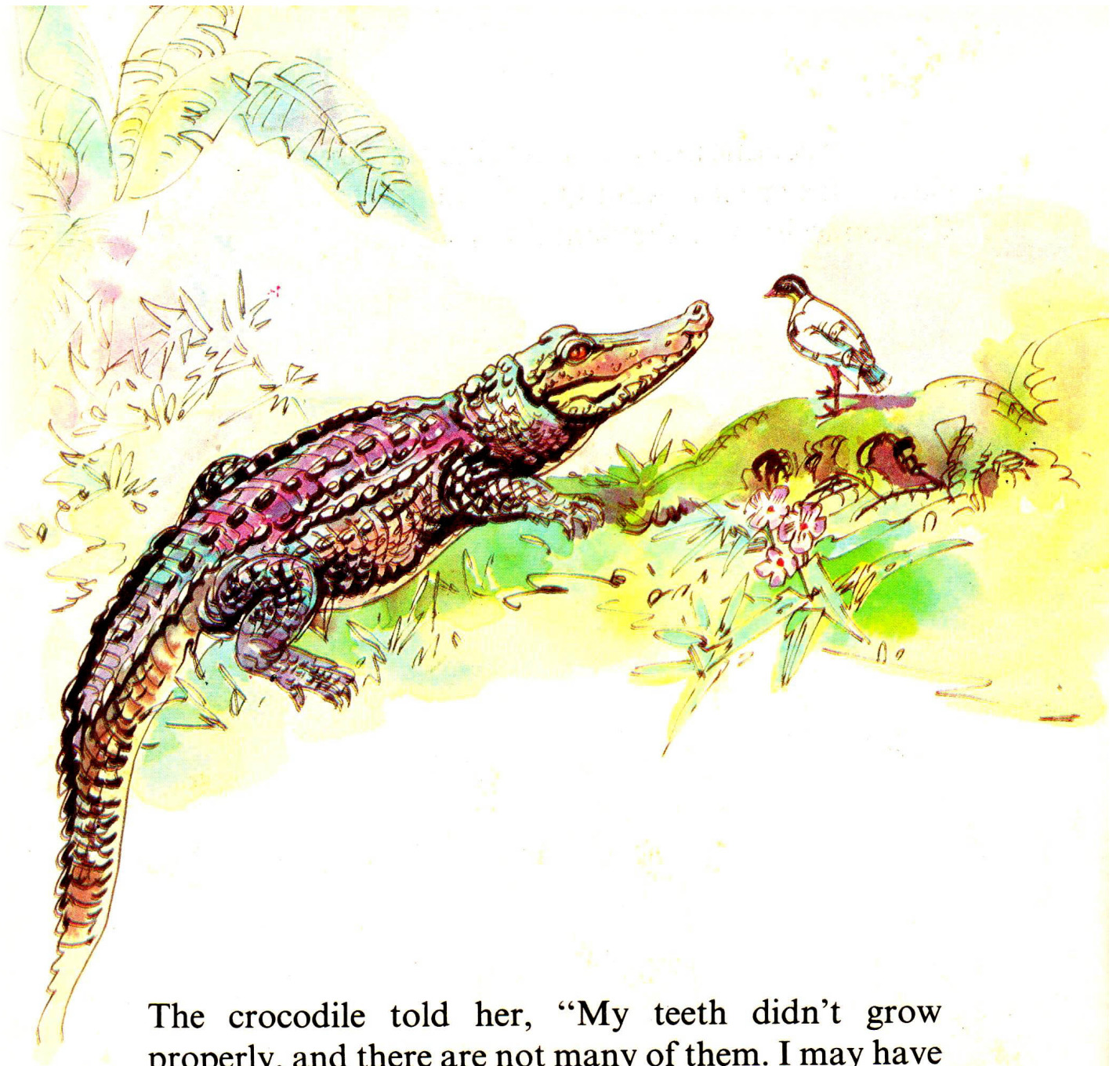




“Thank you,” said the rhinoceros. He left feeling much more cheerful.

Then a crocodile arrived at the clinic, holding his front claw to his mouth. Aunt Quail sent him to see Doctor Crocodile Bird in the dental department.

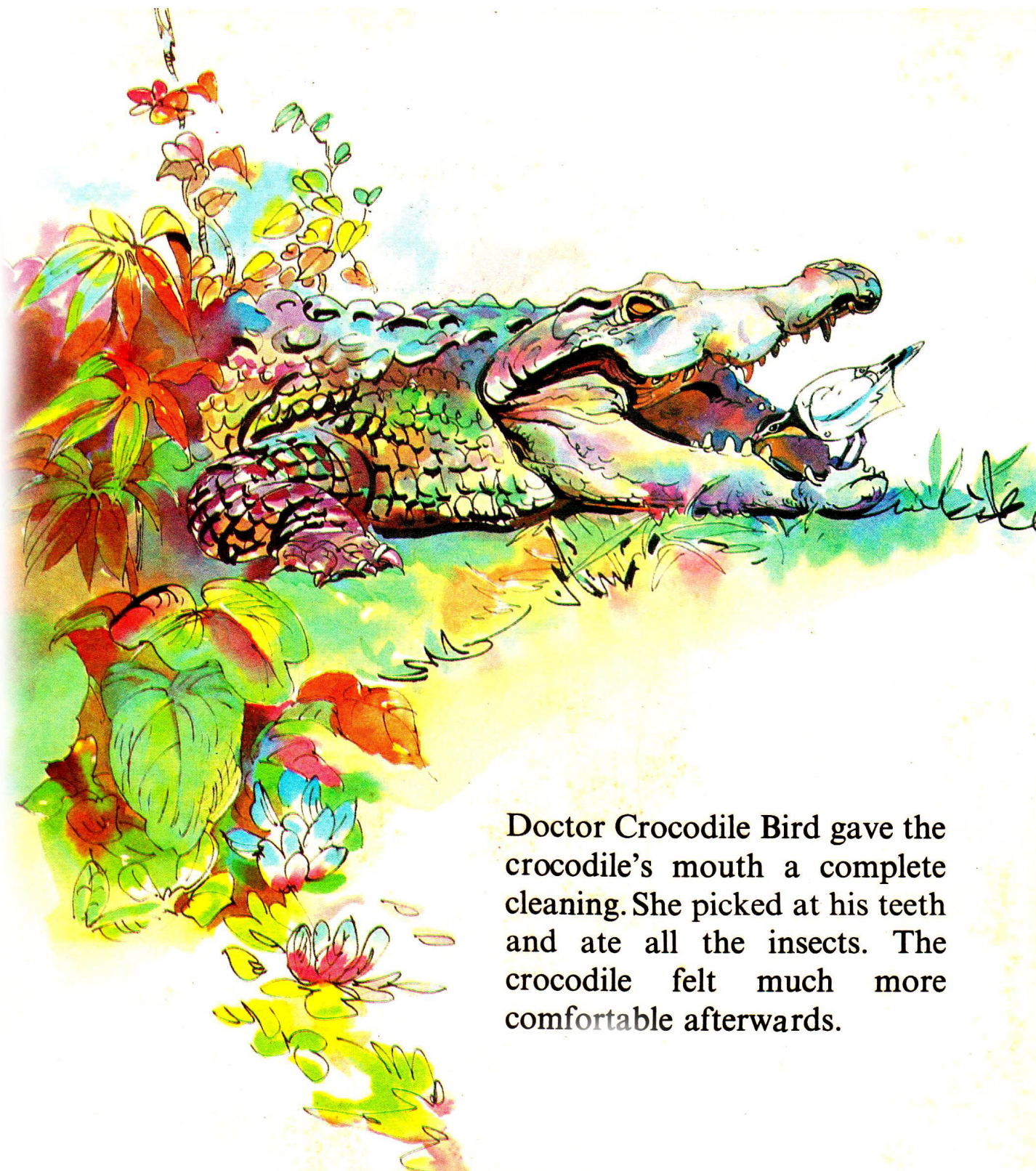




The crocodile told her, "My teeth didn't grow properly, and there are not many of them. I may have some insects in my teeth since I don't brush them."

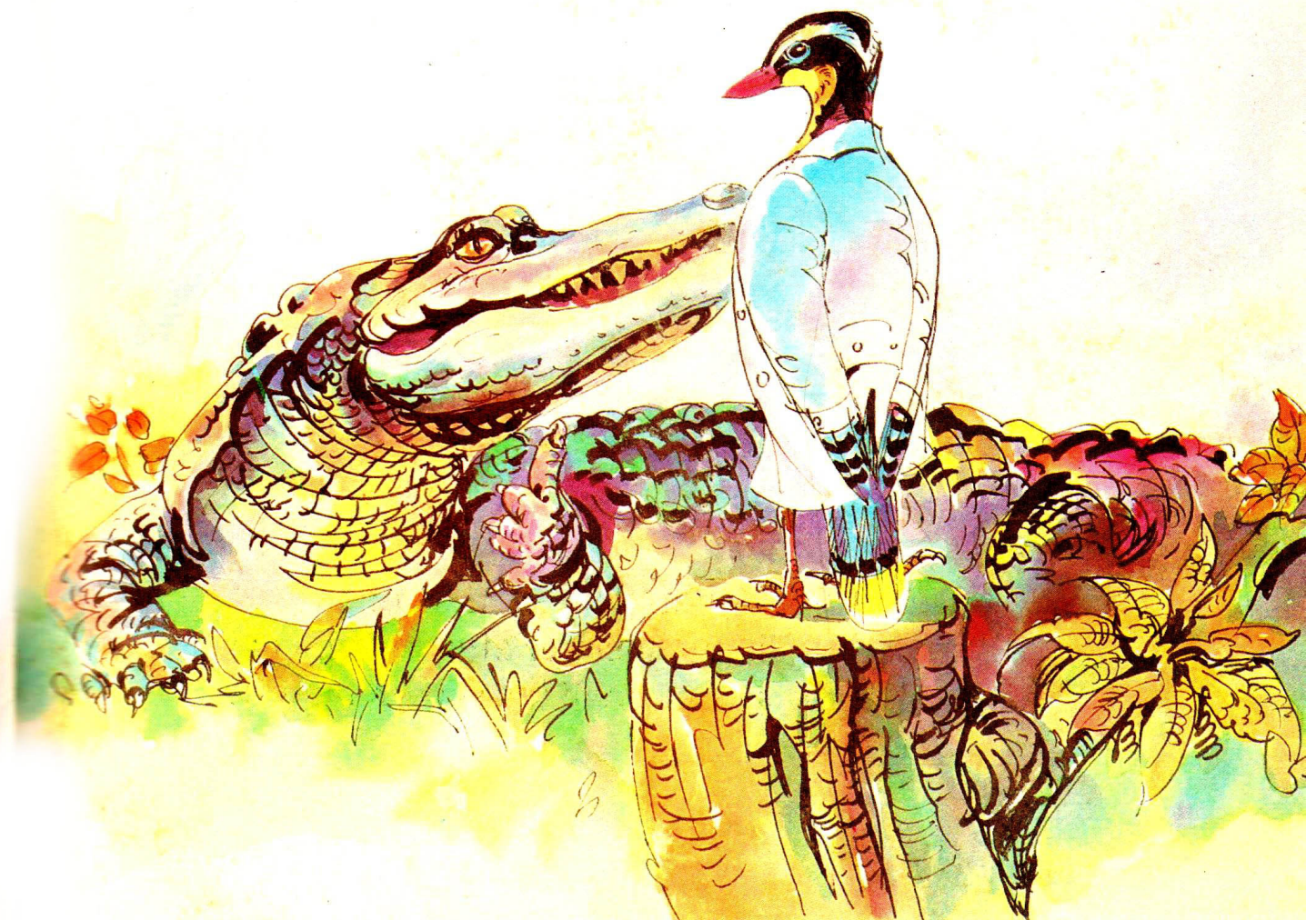
Doctor Crocodile Bird ordered the crocodile to open his mouth wide. She jumped inside and took a close look. She found that the crevices between the crocodile's teeth were full of decayed bits of meat, and small insects were feeding off the remains of the meat.

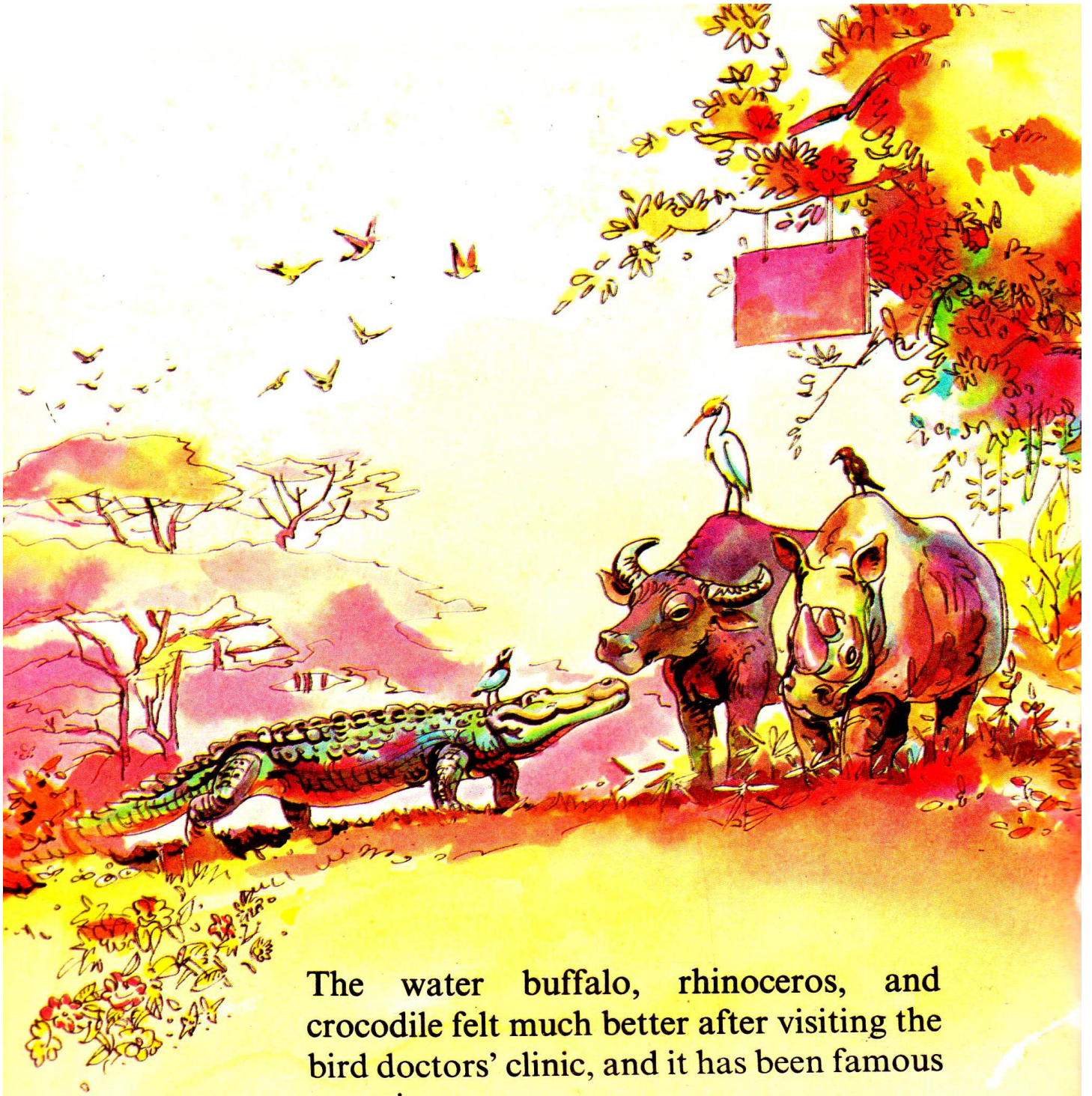




Doctor Crocodile Bird gave the crocodile's mouth a complete cleaning. She picked at his teeth and ate all the insects. The crocodile felt much more comfortable afterwards.

The crocodile held up his claw and said, "You are a great dentist. Thank you very much." Doctor Crocodile Bird smiled and replied, "You are welcome. Whenever there is anything wrong with your teeth, you can count on me."





The water buffalo, rhinoceros, and crocodile felt much better after visiting the bird doctors' clinic, and it has been famous ever since.



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